

FACT SHEET



Bruno Co-op Site Bruno, Nebraska

July 1998

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EPA will hold a public meeting on Thursday, July 23, 1998, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bruno Village Hall, Bruno, Nebraska.

The purpose of the meeting is to take written and oral comments on the proposed plan for the groundwater contamination at the Bruno Co-op site. A 30-day comment period opens July 16, 1998, and closes August 14, 1998.

Comments can be submitted orally or in writing at the public meeting. Written comments (post-marked no later than August 14, 1998), can be sent to:

Diane Huffman
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Programs
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed a study of cleanup alternatives to deal with the groundwater contamination at the Bruno Co-op site. The site is located on the northwest edge of Bruno, Nebraska. EPA's proposed plan summarizes the cleanup alternatives and EPA's preferred alternative.

EPA will decide how to address the contaminated groundwater after reviewing comments received during the public comment period. The decision will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also include a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

SITE BACKGROUND

Groundwater contamination was discovered in late 1984 by the Nebraska Department of Health (NDOH) during routine sampling of Bruno's public water supply wells. Additional groundwater

sampling of the public water supply wells confirmed the presence volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, and 1,2-dichloroethane. An assessment conducted by EPA in April 1987 suggested the likely source of contamination was the former Commodity Credit Corporation/United States Department of Agriculture grain storage site and other local grain storage bins where VOC's were

used as grain fumigants.

EPA supplied bottled water to the Bruno residents from May 1989 until two new public water supply wells were completed in 1990. In June 1996, the Bruno Co-op site was placed on the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), a list of top priority sites in the country eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program.

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED

EPA evaluated four alternative methods for addressing the contaminated groundwater at the Bruno Co-op site. The four alternatives are:

- 1. No action** - By law, EPA is required to consider taking no action at all, leaving the site in its present condition. The no action alternative is considered a baseline and all of the other alternatives are compared to this alternative.
- 2. Containment/air stripping** - Contaminated groundwater is pumped out of the ground, treated in an air stripper, and discharged to a tributary of Skull Creek. Air stripping removes contaminants from the groundwater. This alternative does not attempt to clean up the groundwater. The goal of this alternative is to prevent the contamination from migrating farther. This alternative also limits exposure to soil contaminants, present at the bin site, by using controls such as deed restrictions.
- 3. Active restoration/air stripping** - Contaminated groundwater is pumped out of the ground, treated in an air stripper, and discharged to a tributary of Skull Creek. The goal of this alternative is to clean up the groundwater by pumping at a greater rate than in Alternative 2. The controls described in Alternative 2 would also be implemented with this alternative.
- 4. Active restoration using "in situ" (in-place) vapor extraction** - Wells are installed in the contaminated groundwater and air is injected into the wells. As the air contacts the groundwater, the contaminants move from the water table to a vapor above it. The vapor is extracted out of the ground and vented into the atmosphere. This is a new technology and is relatively untested. The controls described in Alternative 2 would also be implemented with this alternative.

EPA'S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

EPA's preferred alternative for the Bruno Co-op site is Alternative 3. This alternative meets the requirements for overall protection of human health and the environment and provides the best balance of the factors EPA is required to consider when selecting a remedy. EPA will periodically revisit the remedy to evaluate its effectiveness and take advantage of new technologies that may arise.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review and comment on the proposed plan for the Bruno Co-op site. A file containing the documents about the cleanup, called the Administrative Record File, is available for public review at the following information repositories, during normal business hours:

Bruno Post Office
Bruno, Nebraska

U.S. EPA Region 7
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need additional information about this site, please contact:

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